

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 4: Habakkuk

Scriptures: Habakkuk 1-3

Central Text: Habakkuk 3:17-18

“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover

- Habakkuk was concerned that the LORD was not responding to his evil generation (Southern Kingdom, Judea) and its corrupt ways (the courts were even corrupt- Hab 1:4)
- He voiced his concern to Yahweh in prayer (1:2-4) and asked questions of the Lord. This questioning of Yahweh was unique among the prophets.
- The Lord replied that He was working. He was raising up a nation (Babylon) that would punish His people for their covenant unfaithfulness (1:5-11).
- This raised another problem for Habakkuk, which he also took to the Lord in prayer. How could He use a more wicked nation than Judah to punish God's chosen people (1:12—2:1)? The Lord explained that He would eventually punish the Babylonians for their wickedness too (2:2-20).
- The final chapter is a hymn of praise where Habakkuk is extolling Yahweh for His wise ways. Habakkuk's conclusion was that Yahweh would avenge eventually, and that he would worship God in the meantime. "Until the day God avenges the Babylonians and restores Jerusalem, the just live by faith (Hab. 2:1-4), waiting with confidence for the fulfillment of I AM's unfailing promise that the wicked will be destroyed (2:5-19) and his legitimate claim to the whole world will be universally acknowledged (3:1-16)."
- Habakkuk's conclusion would give hope and encouragement to the faithful righteous remnant enduring a perverse and wicked generation that was about to enter captivity.

Suggested Attributes:

Of God: Justice, Sovereignty

Of Man: Trust in God's perfect timing and wisdom

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Habakkuk 3